

Bill 4

TO: City Council Transportation and Planning Committee

DATE: March 3, 2009

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REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, March 5, 2009, 9 a.m.

SUBJECT: Bill 4 - Relating to the Use of Electronic Devices While Driving

Aloha Councilmembers,

While I support the intent of Bill 4, CD1, I have the following questions and comments. Has Hawaii or the City and County of Honolulu kept track of the number of crashes that have been the result of people using electronic devices while driving? If not, I think it is important to have that information in order to create an effective law and build support for it.

Why are "commercial vehicle drivers" being exempted from this potential ordinance? In my experience, many commercial drivers are already creating a hazardous environment for others by speeding to their destinations.

In the same vein, why should taxi drivers be exempt? Are they more capable of driving a vehicle with due care and talking on a cell phone than the general public?

Given the recent crash on the North Shore that sent a mother and her two children to the hospital, I sincerely appreciate the attempt by the council to create a law that is more concrete and enforceable. I urge you to look at other issues that may also be creating an unsafe environment for all of us.